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the Aquapino country. The language of the first is Ga; that of the latter Otchi (of which Ashanti is a dialect); they are therefore quite different. Although Akropong is the capital (king's residence) of Aquapino. Aburrie is the larger town. It musters, I think, about 1000 guns, representing so many able-bodied men. Here I met one of the farmer-missionaries from Christianbourg. We had a chat about the ofroi-fly, which had killed ten horses for him. But two donkeys he had bought up-hill had also died, and the tsetse, according to Livingstone, does not touch donkeys, or their congeners, men. I was stung by one of them; it was merely like that of our common horse-fly. The next morning I went to Akropong, and was kindly received by Mr. Mader, the head missionary, who gave me a room. The aspect of the large neatly-built schools and houses, with a 'quad' in their midst, turfed with Bermuda grass; the coolness of the air, the beautiful view of the Accra plain, reminding me of the valleys of the Arno and the Rhine, the sound of the harmonium, and the sight of two noisy vivacious little children, made me almost fancy myself in Europe. It was indeed very different from anything which I had seen in Africa, and I regretted very much that I had only one day to spend there. At Akropong there is a boarding-school for small boys, about 80; also a grammar-school and a theological seminary: the two latter with admirable sleeping-rooms and neat clean beds, quite a pleasure to look at. The system of education I do not approve of; it is a great deal too classical—just the system which is being so generally attacked in our own country at the present day. Akropong is now used as a sanatorium by the Christianbourg missionaries, and also by many merchants and officials (who do not wish to leave their posts). It is by no means a perfect sanatorium. About 1500 feet high, and in a dense forest, it is not exempt from malarious influences, but still the air is cool and refreshing.

"The Aquapino people are peaceful and industrious. The kolo-tree appears to be abundant, but the nuts are not collected. No cotton can be grown, on account of the thickness of the forest. The coffee-plantation may be considered a success, and that berry will be exported in large quantities in the next generation. The plain between the hills and Accra would grow cotton well enough, for I observed it growing wild. There are ferruginous springs in the neighbourhood. Some of the trees are of prodigious height, running up 200 feet without a branch. The great want of Akropong is means for portage. There is no river. Everything has to go down to Accra on women's heads. Were it not for the fly, or whatever it is which kills horses and cattle, the missionaries would, I think, have horse and bullock-waggons at work. But that is unhappily impossible. These Basle missionaries, by-the-by, do not receive any salary, only an allowance of about 150*l.* This they may not exceed, and if they save anything it goes into the chest. They would not take anything from me, as I was there only a day; but for regular periods they charge, I think, a dollar a day. I was at Akropong only a day and a half; fearing the *Mandingo* might be a day too soon, I made my preparations accordingly, and went from Akropong to Accra in the day, arriving at 6:30—a very good journey."

4. *Letter from Sir A. E. Kennedy, Governor of the West African Possessions, on recent Explorations near Sierra Leone.*

"MY DEAR SIR,

"Government House, Sierra Leone, April, 15, 1869.

"I have received your letter of the 8th March, 1869, thanking me on the part of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society for the aid I have been able to give Mr. W. Winwood Reade.

"I am painfully conscious how little I deserve this recognition of the little I have done.

"It is a matter of great commercial importance to this settlement to have the road open to the Niger, in the Sangara country, and Mr. Reade has nearly accomplished this, having reached as far as Falaba, capital of the Soolima country; and if he gets no further, I have made arrangement this very day with the son of a chief who will guarantee the safety of any one I may send next dry season. This young man describes the whole route as easy, about a month's journey, plenty of horses, country fine and salubrious, and people industrious and most anxious to be visited by white men.

"In enclose copy of Mr. Reade's last note, in case you are without information.

"I am doing very little towards letting in daylight upon West Africa, where our trade is becoming more extensive and valuable daily. I myself came to this coast in the first mail or commercial steamer (the *Forerunner*) which ever came to West Africa, and there are now four first-class steamers per month running out and home full of cargo. I see no limit to the development of trade on this coast, if we can extend our influence and maintain peace in the interior. You are probably aware that, having crossed the bar and ascended the hitherto inaccessible river Volta this year, with the very valuable aid of Captain Glover, R.N., and a little colonial steamer, we remained in the river for 14 days, and made a survey of the bar and entrance. It is a grand stream, free from mud and swamp, and opening a rich and valuable country.

"I shall always be glad to receive any suggestion you will be kind enough to offer me in forwarding the view of your Society.

"I am, my dear Sir, your very faithful servant,

A. E. KENNEDY.

"Sir Roderick Murchison, Bart."

5. *Note on the Determination of Heights, chiefly in the Interior of Continents, from Observations of Atmospheric Pressure.* By ALEXANDER BUCHAN, M.A.

(Extracted from the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1868-9).

THE weight or pressure of the atmosphere is ascertained by the mercurial barometer, the aneroid, or from the temperature of the boiling-point of water. The height of a hill is measured barometrically, from observations made simultaneously at its base and top, and the application of certain well-known formulæ. The height of a place at no great distance from another place whose height is known, and at which observations are made about the same time, may similarly be ascertained with a close approximation to the truth.

But with regard to places far from any place of known elevation, or from any place at which meteorological observations are made, it is plain that the height can only be computed by assuming a certain pressure as the sea-level pressure at that place.

In the Table giving the reductions of heights from Captain Speke's observations, it is stated ('Journal of the Royal Geographical Society,' vol. xxxiii.), that a mean pressure of 29.92 inches was assumed as the mean sea-level pressure,—that is, if those parts of Africa visited by Speke had been on the same level with the sea, it is assumed that the mean pressure of the atmosphere would have been 29.92 inches.

In the last revised 'Hints to Travellers,' prepared by the Royal Geographical Society, and published in the 'Journal,' vol. xxxiv., it is stated at page